

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRN, JM

SUBJ: CIVAIR: FUEL FOR AIR JAMAICA

REF: KINGSTON 079, 080, 081

1. THE DEPARTMENT GREATLY APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S PROMPT AND COMPLETE REPORTING OF GOJ CONCERN OVER FUEL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING AIR JAMAICA IN THE US. GOJ EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND AIR JAMAICA EXECUTIVES IN NUMEROUS VISITS AND CALLS HAVE SIMILARLY BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, AND EFFECTIVELY TO NOTICE OF FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE, DIFFICULTIES AIR JAMAICA FACES IN CURRENT FUEL CRISIS.

2. AS A RESULT, AIR JAMAICA WAS FIRST FOREIGN CARRIER WHICH TRADITIONALLY USED BONDED FUEL TO BE GRANTED ADJUSTED 1972 BASE PROVIDING FOR ACCESS TO DOMESTIC FUEL.

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FEO IN LATE DECEMBER DIRECTED SHELL TO PROVIDE AIR JAMAICA

SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF JET FUEL AT DETROIT TO CONTINUE A DAILY DC-9 SERVICE INAUGURATED DECEMBER 1. AIR JAMAICA HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO FIND BONDED FUEL SUPPLIER FOR FLIGHT, AND HAD STARTED UP SERVICE USING SPARE FUEL PROVIDED ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS BY BUTLER AVIATION, AJ'S GROUND AGENT IN DETROIT.

3. AN FEO DIRECTIVE PROVIDES THAT INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS EXPERIENCING FUEL SHORTFALLS IN JAN MAY BE SUPPLIED MILITARY JET FUEL UP TO 85 PERCENT OF THEIR JAN 1972 USAGE. FEO REGULATIONS FOR FEBRUARY AND BEYOND CONTEMPLATE ALLOWING INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, WHICH CAN PROVE THAT SUFFICIENT BONDED FUEL IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM AT ANY PRICE, ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT DOMESTIC FUEL TO BRING THEIR OPERATION TO 95 PERCENT OF THEIR 1972 USAGE.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK WITH AIR JAMAICA OFFICIALS, WE HAVE STRESSED NEED FOR AIR JAMAICA TO FILE APPLICATION FOR AN ADJUSTED 1972 BASE IF IT BELIEVES ITS 1972 OPERATIONS ARE UNREPRESENTATIVE OF CURRENT SERVICES. WE HAVE URGED THAT ANY SUCH APPLICATION BE COPIED TO US SO THAT WE MIGHT DETERMINE IF THEIR CASE MEETS OUR CRITERIA FOR AN ADJUSTMENT ON GROUNDS OF HARDSHIP. THIS AIR JAMAICA HAS AGREED TO DO.

5. DUE TO AIR JAMAICA'S RAPID EXPANSION SINCE 1972, WE ANTICIPATE DEPT WILL HAVE GOOD CASE FOR RECOMMENDING TO FEO 1972 BASE ADJUSTMENT FOR AIR JAMAICA ALONG LINES OF EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEO REGULATION PROVISIONS ON HARDSHIP. RUSH

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